

REMARKS

The amendment to claim 18 is supported by the specification, page 6; claim 18 has been placed into independent form. Claims 25 and 33 have been amended so that they no longer depend from claim 12, but rather depend from claim 18. Claims 1-17 and 40-53 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Claims 18-39 are present in the application.

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

The Office is requiring restriction of the present application as follows:

Group I – claim 1;

Group II – claims 2-5;

Group III – claims 6-11;

Group IV – claims 12-17;

Group V – claims 18-24;

Group VI – claims 25-32;

Group VII – claims 33-39;

Group VIII – claims 40-47; and

Group IX – claims 48-53.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group V, claims 18-24. Since claims 1-17 and 40-53 have now been cancelled, only the restriction between Groups V-VII need be addressed.

The Office has asserted that Groups V-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. The Office has indicated that the “technical feature” linking the groups of claims is a fluorescent derivative of NAD⁺; the Office asserts that this feature is not novel based on Clark et al.